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# American Art Journal.

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## ITALIAN OPERA—FRENCH THEATRE.

Mr. Draper inaugurates his operatic season at the New French Theatre, in Fourteenth street on Saturday evening, but not with English Opera, as he originally intended. His preparations in that department not being completed, he has engaged an excellent Italian Company and will give a series of Italian Operas, carefully studied and produced. The artists already engaged are Signora Boschetti, Signor Tamaro, Signor Orlandini and Signor Barili. The Opera to be given that evening is Rossini's "Barbiere de Siviglia," the most sparkling and brilliant comic opera ever written. We think the roles are well suited to the artists, and a most enjoyable performance may be expected. A large and well-selected Italian chorus has been engaged, and an orchestra containing some of our best musicians.

The time is propitious for the success of the undertaking; there are no musical entertainments to interfere, there are many strangers in the city and our citizens are all eager for their favorite amusement, Italian Opera.

The next opera produced will probably be Gounod's "Faust," in which Signora Boschetti, as Marguerita, made so marked a sensation.

## MAX MARETZKE'S ITALIAN OPERA.

We are able to satisfy the public curiosity and anxiety as to when Mr. Maretzek's operatic season will commence, and where the performances will be given. Deprived for the present of its natural home, Mr. Maretzek's company will lead a rather predatory life for a few weeks to come. The following will show the extent of their wandering, the places they will visit, and the dates. The season will commence in Brooklyn, October the 10th, and will last till the 13th; in Philadelphia from October the 15th to the 27th; in Pittsburgh from the 29th

to November the 3d; in Brooklyn from the 5th to the 8th; in Boston from the 12th to the 25th; in New York, at the Winter Garden, from the 26th of November until January, 1867. It is expected that the New York Academy of Music will be rebuilt and ready for occupation on or about the first in January, 1867. The greatest activity is displayed in pushing the work forward; not a moment is lost, for all the departments are progressing together. The scenery, decorations and fixtures for the interior, together with the properties, will be ready to put in the house the day that it is ready to receive them. We may, therefore, count with some certainty upon the promise of the architect to have the Academy ready for operatic purposes, immediately after New Year's day.

The full strength of Mr. Maretzek's company will necessarily be reserved for the grand season at the Academy of Music, but his company will be admirable in advance of that. It will consist of Miss Kellagg, Mlle. Ranconi, Senorita Carmelina Poch, Mme. Ortolani and Miss Hauch who made so successful a debut at Mr. Leonard Jerome's private Opera House, last season. The Contralto will be Mme. Testa, who is spoken of very highly, Signor Mazzoleni, Signor Beragli, Signor Ronconi the great Buffo, Signor Bellini and Signor Antonucci. The repertoire will consist of the lighter operas, among them Harold's beautiful opera "Zampa," which has never been given on the Italian stage in this country, and which will, we are sure, become a permanent favorite with the public.

Ronconi and his daughter, a young, lovely and talented girl, arrived in this city in the *Persia* yesterday.

## THE BATEMAN CONCERT COMPANY.

The success which attended Mr. Bateman's concerts with M<sup>me</sup> Parepa, last season, has induced him to greatly enlarge the numbers of his company for the coming season. In addition to Madame Parepa, who is a host in herself, and the well known artist Signor Farrati, he has secured the services of Mr. Hughes and Mr. Winterbottom, two of the most eminent soloists of the day. Mr. Hughes, the ophicleide player, was formerly in this country with Julien. He is an artist of rare ability. During this engagement he will introduce a new instrument called the orpheonist, which is reported to have extraordinary powers. Mr. Winterbottom on the trombone has probably no equal in the world. Mr. Bateman, it is said, will divide his company, one-half remaining stationary in New York, while the other half makes a tour of the States. The party in New York will give a series of popular concerts on Monday and Wednesday evenings of each week alternately, at Steinway's New Music Hall, and the Academy of Music, Brooklyn.

Mr. Theodore Thomas is to be the conductor in New York and Brooklyn, and the English papers announce that Mr. J. L. Hutton, the celebrated composer and pianist will be the conductor of the traveling company.

At Niblo's there will be an Operatic Ballet Company. The chief vocalists are announced as Miss Anna Kemp, of Covent Garden Theatre, Miss Rose Norton, of the London and Liverpool theaters, and Miss Millie Cavenish.

At the New York Theatre, the lessees, Messrs. Baker and Mark Smith, have engaged Mr. Julius Eichberg, composer of "The Doctor of Alcantara," and other operas, as musical director. English opera will be represented there, and Mrs. Gomersall is to be the leading vocalist.

The Philharmonic Society of New York, has concluded to give its concerts at Steinway's new concert hall, which is the only hall large enough to accommodate its subscribers. Theodore Thomas' symphony soirees will also be given there.

## THEO. THOMAS'S SUMMER CONCERTS.

When Mr. Thomas announced that he would give nightly concerts in a public garden during the Summer months the undertaking was deemed extra hazardous, and but few believed that it would last a month. We as a people do not care to mix indiscriminately at places of public amusement, more especially when it is a question whether ladies shall or shall not go. The idea of a public garden has long been classed with associations of by no means a high-toned character, and our sense of propriety was at once on the alert to examine the case thoroughly. The name of Mr. Theodore Thomas was, to all who knew him, a guarantee of high excellence in his department, and gave assurance that all else connected with the enterprise would be in proper keeping. The first visit satisfied all present that the place was delightful, the music charming in variety and good in execution, and that ladies could visit there with perfect propriety. It has now been in operation nearly three months; the company visiting there is of the first class in the city. Gentlemen do not go there alone, but are, in almost every instance, accompanied by their families. On every visit we recognize hundreds of habitués of our opera house and concert rooms.

The musical selections are always excellent. We have rarely heard a poor programme. Overtures, pot-pourris from favorite operas, waltzes, fantasies, marches, solos, and characteristic and descriptive polkas, are the staples of the general programmes, but on Tuesday and Friday evenings, the second act consists entirely of Classical Music, such as the Midsummer Night's music, and whole symphonies by Beethoven, Mozart, &c. These works are